WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition in a form of an orally deliverable tablet comprising a water-soluble salt of pramipexole, dispersed in a matrix comprising a hydrophilic polymer and a starch having a tensile strength of at least about 0.15 kN cm^{-2} at a solid fraction representative of the tablet.

2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the starch has a tensile strength of at least about 0.175 kN cm^{-2}.

3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the starch has a tensile strength of at least about 0.2 kN cm^{-2}.

4. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the starch is a pregelatinized starch.

5. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the starch is present in an amount of about 25% to about 75% by weight.

6. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the starch is present in an amount of about 40% to about 70% by weight.

7. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the starch is present in an amount of about 45% to about 65% by weight.

8. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carmellose sodium and carbomer.

9. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

10. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is present in an amount of about 20% to about 70% by weight.

11. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is present in an amount of about 30% to about 60% by weight.

12. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is present in an amount of about 35% to about 50% by weight.

13. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the salt has solubility not less than about 50 mg/ml.

14. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the salt has solubility not less than about 100 mg/ml.

15. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the salt is pramipexole dihydrochloride.

16. The composition of Claim 1 that comprises about 0.1 to about 10 mg pramipexole per tablet, expressed as pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate equivalent.

17. The composition of Claim 1 that comprises about 0.2 to about 6 mg pramipexole per tablet, expressed as pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate equivalent.

18. The composition of Claim 1 that comprises about 0.3 to about 5 mg pramipexole per tablet, expressed as pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate equivalent.

19. The composition of Claim 1, further comprising a coating on the tablet.

20. The composition of Claim 19 wherein said coating is a release-controlling layer.

21. The composition of Claim 20 wherein said release-controlling layer constitutes about 1% to about 15% by weight of the tablet.

22. The composition of Claim 19 wherein said coating is a nonfunctional coating.

23. A pharmaceutical composition in a form of an orally deliverable tablet having a core comprising pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate in an amount of about 0.375, 0.75, 1.5, 3 or 4.5 mg, dispersed in a matrix comprising (a) HPMC type 2208 in an amount of about 35% to about 50% by weight of the tablet and (b) a pregelatinized starch having a tensile strength of at least about 0.15 kN cm^{-2} at a solid fraction of 0.8, in an amount of about 45% to about 65% by weight of the tablet; said core being substantially enclosed in a coating that constitutes about 2% to about 7% of the weight of the tablet, said coating comprising an ethylcellulose-based hydrophobic or water-insoluble component and an HPMC-based pore-forming component in an amount of about 10% to about 40% by weight of the ethylcellulose-based component.

24. A method of treatment of a subject having a condition or disorder for which a dopamine D_2 receptor agonist is indicated, the method comprising orally administering to the subject the pharmaceutical composition of any of the preceding claims.

25. The method of Claim 24 wherein the composition is administered not more than

once daily.

26. The method of Claim 24 wherein the condition or disorder is Parkinson's disease or a complication associated therewith.